

The gentleman from California (Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER) is exactly right, we need to get them new weapons, we need to get them the right ammunition, we need to pay them like a free society ought to pay volunteers. He is exactly right. And none of us are in disagreement on that.

We also need to protect the peace that they have won. We, as the Congress of the United States, ought to set the rules for the Army and the Navy, and that is what I am asking the Congress of the United States to do right now. And we ought to bring those people who have done horrible things to justice. They should be held accountable for what they have done.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield the remaining time to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN).

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from California for yielding the time.

This issue of America's involvement in the Balkans has given me more difficulty than any public policy issue I have ever been called upon to address. I must tell my colleagues that I have no satisfaction whatsoever in the manner in which the Congress of the United States has dealt with that terrible issue and the way we have performed consistent with what I would regard, if not our constitutional duty, the duty of common sense and of good public policy. We have, basically, from the beginning sought to insulate ourselves from what was going on.

I do not have the time to lay out anything other than just a very few bullet points that need much more exposition.

I have a strong point of view that this administration stumbled and bumbled through incredible ineptness in their execution of policy that got us into the mess we are in. But once we were in that mess, I have never understood the unwillingness of the Congress to confront the fact that we are there and our forces were engaged. And being engaged, we ought to either say, bring them home, or we ought to have supported them by a resolution authorizing them to be there and allowing such forces as were necessary to accomplish goals that we established as being valid goals.

Because we did nothing of that sort in the four resolutions that were offered on the floor of the House, I introduced H.J.Res. 51. I suggest my colleagues might want to read it. I am very disturbed by the fact that we have not done what we should.

The amendment of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), as I understand it, there is little, if anything, in it that I would disagree with. I think it is basically a rhetorical statement. I

happen to agree with the rhetoric. It gives me no problems at all.

Let me take what remaining time I have to address the amendment of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) which I understand will be next or soon in order.

I do not have any disagreement with Mr. Skelton on that because I do not think this Congress ought to be saying to the President of the United States that he cannot deploy forces that are already deployed, he must withdraw. But this amendment, the language which is in the bill, is not intended to be an interference with the President's constitutional prerogatives. It is intended to be in keeping with the constitutional prerogatives that are clearly those of the Congress.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness, I am very, weary year after year after year of authorizing and appropriators' appropriating funds for stated purposes in areas of concern to be taken care of where there are problems, only to find that the administration, because of contingencies, has taken the money and spent it somewhere else.

What do we care, or do we even care anymore, about our responsibility as the Congress to control the purse strings? What difference does it make for us to spend our time authorizing after months of study and then appropriating funds if, having done so, the President can go off on any operation he chooses, spend the money in ways other than what we direct, and say nothing to this?

I am not against what the President is doing or finally has been required to do in Kosovo, and I am delighted with what appears to be a reasonable success. But it does not alter the fact that when we appropriate hundreds of millions of dollars devoted to specific reasons and purposes to look after the readiness and to get the equipment for our forces, we want it spent for those reasons.

If the President's policy takes us in a deployment somewhere, the President should come back to us and seek the funds for it, not spend it from things that we have otherwise authorized and appropriated. And that is what the issue is about and the only reason I would not be able to support the Skelton amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me close by thanking the gentleman from California for what he did back in April, which was to force the 435 elected officials, not one of us was appointed, not one of us was annointed, every one of us begged for this job, for forcing us to do what we should have done all along.

I also want to thank him for coming to me with what I thought was a very common-sense compromise on this issue. Again, what I had set out to do in the beginning was to help that very high-ranking American officer and let

him and all the troops know that the Congress of the United States is behind them in what they are trying to accomplish. We have a chance to do that right now.

And lastly, I want to thank the Speaker of the House, who I do believe played a part in seeing to it that that amendment which was originally blocked from consideration 2 weeks ago is being voted on today. I think that is supporting what we are doing today.

I think for the sake of the kids who flew the 30,000 sorties and put their lives on the line every time that we protect the peace, that they risked their lives to gain.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 18 printed in Part A of House Report 106-175.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. SOUDER

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part A amendment No. 18 offered by Mr. SOUDER:

Strike section 1006 (page 270, line 20, through page 271, line 9) and insert the following new section:

**SEC. 1006. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA.**

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2000 may be used for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of our troops and the fundamental national security interests of this country. This bill is, in fact, about our national defense and readiness. I also want to commend the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services for his excellent work and commitment in this bill to rebuild our national defense posture.

It is my strong conviction that the United States' involvement in leadership in the conflict in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has, in fact, undermined our national interest, not furthered it. The President's national security adviser Sandy Berger supposedly, according to the President, coined the phrase "come home, America" for the McGovern campaign in